

12/18
Mgt. Team

**Friant Water Users Authority/ Natural Resources Defense Council/
Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations**

December 10, 1996

Mr. Roger Patterson, Regional Director
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825-1898

Mr. Dale Hall
Assistant Regional Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Portland Eastside Federal Complex
911 N.E. 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232-4181

Re: Cooperative Efforts on San Joaquin River Riparian Habitat Restoration

Dear Mr. Patterson and Mr. Hall:

The Friant Water Users Authority, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations share a strong interest in the mainstem of the San Joaquin River and have embarked upon discussions about mutually acceptable restoration activities. As an initial matter, we seek the assistance of the Department of Interior in pursuing restoration of the River's riparian corridor from Friant Dam to the confluence with the Merced River. We hope to later expand our joint efforts to include other activities related to restoration of the San Joaquin River.

There are many benefits of developing and implementing a riparian restoration plan, including improved flood control and enhanced groundwater recharge, as well as benefits for aquatic and terrestrial wildlife. Enhancement of riparian habitat is also likely to increase property values for riparian landowners and adjacent landowners. The San Joaquin River Management Plan (SJTMP) has previously delineated riparian restoration and related projects on the San Joaquin River, and these have been concurred upon by the Friant Water Users and other water users in the Basin. This project would be an outgrowth of, and closely related to, those SJTMP projects.

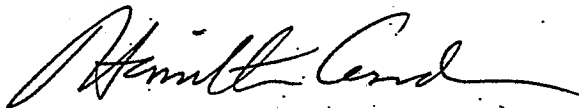
To develop and implement the plan, we envision a process that is based on extensive stakeholder involvement. We ask the Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to appoint a study manager who will work closely with the stakeholder group and other interested parties to develop the riparian restoration plan, as well as other project components on which consensus is developed. We believe this

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process should include regular briefings and discussions with stakeholders and a structure that will encourage and ensure stakeholder involvement and collaboration in development and implementation of the plan. We hope to enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Bureau and FWS that establishes this project structure.

We have already contacted a wide array of interested parties about this concept and anticipate a wide level of support for these consensus efforts. We appreciate your early encouragement of this project and we look forward to developing a constructive ongoing relationship with the Department of the Interior to assist us in this restoration effort.

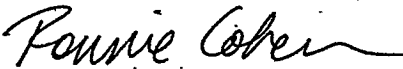
Sincerely,



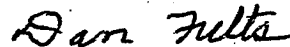
Hamilton Candee
Natural Resources Defense Council



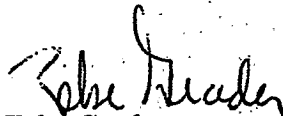
Richard Moss
Friant Water Users Authority



Ronnie Ann Cohen
Natural Resources Defense Council



Dan Fults
Friant Water Users Authority



Zeke Grader
Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations

cc: Hon. John Garamendi, Deputy Secretary of Interior